

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 7 are amended. Support for the Amendment is found at, for example, page 8, line 31 - page 9, line 14, and Fig. 1 of the application. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,935,165 (Bashir). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding the rejection of claim 1, Bashir fails to disclose or suggest a minute mechanical structure body having at least two arms connected to a supporting portion of the minute mechanical structure body, and a functional membrane formed at least on one part of a surface of the minute mechanical structural body, as recited in claim 1.

Bashir only discloses that three microcantilevers 106 extend from substrate 102, and that each microcantilever 106 is provided on an upper surface with a layer 110 of an environmentally sensitive hydrogel polymer (an alleged functional membrane). Thus, the Examiner alleges that microcantilever 106 corresponds to the minute mechanical structure body. However, Bashir's cantilevers do not include at least two arms attached to a supporting portion. Thus, Bashir does not disclose or suggest the minute structure body recited in claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Bashir.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bashir in view of Lang et al. "An artificial nose based on a micromechanical cantilever array", *Analytica Chimica Acta*, Elsevier, vol. 393.

However, claims 2-15 depend, directly or indirectly from claim 1. Thus, claims 2-15 are patentable over Bashir and Lang for at least the same reason as claim 1 as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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